

Confirm. No. 4746
512425-2096**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of this application and consideration and entry of this paper are respectfully requested in view of the herein remarks, which place the application in condition for allowance.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. In order to expedite prosecution, the subject matter of claim 4 (which was held to be allowable) has been inserted into claim 1. Amendments to claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 10 were made to make the claim dependencies consistent with the amendment to claim 1. The applicants reserve the right to pursue any subject matter covered by the originally filed claims in a continuation application. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

It is submitted that the claims, herewith and as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited in the Office Action, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The amendments of the claims, as presented herein, are not made for purposes of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§§§ 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these amendments and additions are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd PARAGRAPH REJECTION HAVE BEEN OVERCOME

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected as being incomplete as omitting essential elements. While the applicants do not necessarily agree with this interpretation, this rejection has been rendered moot by the amendment to claim 1 and therefore, this rejection can be withdrawn.

III. THE 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) PARAGRAPH REJECTION HAVE BEEN OVERCOME

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Schilling et al. (U.S. Patent 6,105,920). While the applicants do not necessarily agree with this interpretation, this rejection has been rendered moot by the amendment to claim 1 and therefore, this rejection can be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments herewith, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The undersigned looks forward to hearing favorably from the Examiner at an early date, and, the Examiner is invited to telephonically contact the

Confirm. No. 4746
512425-2096

undersigned to advance prosecution. The Commission is authorized to charge any fee occasioned by this paper, or credit any overpayment of such fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

Howard C. Lee

Marilyn M. Brogan Howard C. Lee
Reg. No. 31,233 Reg. No. 48,104
Telephone: (212) 588-0800
Facsimile: (212) 588-0500